

Chicago Public Radio, June 4, 2009

by Michael Puente

An Illinois congressman is again putting pressure on oil giant BP because of the company's pollution discharges in Indiana.

Mark Kirk is going after his favorite target again: BP.

The Republican north shore Congressman is asking the federal Environmental Protection Agency to review all of BP's emissions at its refinery in Whiting.

KIRK: First they try to violate the water quality of Lake Michigan, now we find they are violating the clean air act.

Kirk has joined 18 other members of Congress in asking EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to closely examine BP's emissions.

This week, the EPA cited BP's Whiting Refinery for violating the Clean Air Act from 2003 to 2008.

The emissions contained cancer-causing benzene.

A BP spokesman says the violations were reported to the EPA but the amount of benzene emitted wasn't enough to pose a danger to the public.

The refinery is undergoing a massive \$4-billion expansion to process heavier Canadian crude oil.